

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 ACDA-07 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /080 W

-----161608Z 061803 /46

O 161510Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2357

INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LOME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 1294

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 2348

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, CG

SUBJECT: SHABA INVASION: STATUS OF GOZ DIPLOMATIC ACTIONS

REF: KINSHASA 2260 (REPEATED INFO ADDRESSES)

1. FOREIGN MINISTER NGUZA HAS CONFIRMED THAT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH PLAN REPORTED REFTTEL, GOZ YESTERDAY INFORMED VISITING TOGOLESE CHAIRMAN OF OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS KODJO, OF SITUATION IN SHABA AND ASKED HIM TO CONSULT WITH OTHER OAU MINISTERS WITH VIEW TO CONDUCTING OAU INVESTIGATION OR UNDERATKING OTHER USEFUL ROLE RE SHABA INVASION. NGUZA WAS PLEASED THAT KODJO HAD AGREED AND FOLLOWING MEETING ALSO HAD PBULICLY STATED THAT HE WAS "SEIZED" WITH PROBLEL. NGUZA SAID KODJO'S CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER OAU MINISTERS WOULD BE IN FRAMEWORK OF PRESERVING TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY
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OF MEMBER STATE.

2. NGUZA ALSO MET YESTERDAY FOR OVER AN HOUR WITH OAU AMBASSADORS KINSHASA TO CONVEY GOZ'S VIEW OF SHABA DEVELOPMENTS. NGUZA SEEMED SATISFIED WITH WAY MEETING WENT. WE WILL SOUND OUT REACTIONS AMONG AMBASSADORS HERE, AND WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ANY FEED-BACK ADDRESSES MAY PICK UP FROM HOST GOVERNMENTS.

3. NGUZA ALSO TOLD ME GOZ HAS INVITED FONMIN GARBA TO COME TO KINSHASA FOR TALKS. RECALLING THAT DURING MOBUTU'S RECENT VISIT TO LAGOS PRESIDENT OBASANJO HAD OFFERED TO TALK WITH NETO RE ANGOLAN-ZAIRIAN PROBLEMS, NGUZA EXPRESSED HOPE THAT NIGERIANS MIGHT STILL BE FAVORABLY INCLINED TO PLAY USEFUL ROLE IN SHABA SITUATION.

4. FURTHER ON DIPLOMATIC FRONT, MOBUTU CALLED ME THIS MORNING TO REPORT THAT HIS SPECIAL EMISSARY, LENGEMA, HAD MET WITH KAUNDA IN LUSAKA AND THAT KUANDA HAD REACTED "FAVORABLY" TO GOZ'S CASE ON SHABA INVASION. ACCORDING TO MOBUTU, KAUNDA INDICATED THAT HE WOULD CONSULT WITH HIS FOREIGN POLICY ADVISORS ON WAYS ZAMBIA MIGHT HELP TO RESOLVE SITUATION AND THAT HE WOULD ALSO TAKE MATTER UP BOTH WITH NETO WHEN HE PASSES THROUGH LUSAKA EN ROUTE HOME FROM FRONT LINE CONFERENCE AND WITH NYERERE. LENGEMA HIMSELF IS SCHEDULED TO MOVE ON TO DAR ES SALAAM WHERE, MOBUTU NOTED, HIS VISIT WILL COINCIDE WITH THAT OF CASTRO.

5. FINALLY, MOBUTU CALLED MY ATTENTION TO REPORT HE HAD JUST RECEIVED FROM GOZ EMBASSY LUSAKA THAT SOVIET DELEGATION HAD ARRIVED IN TOWN AND WOULD CONFER THERE WITH SOVIET AMBASSADORS TO FRONT LINE STATES. MOBUTU RELATED MEETING TO FORTHCOMING PODGORYN TRIP TO AFRICA AND CASTRO'S PRESENT TRIP, COMMENTING DARKLY THAT HE HOPED THE US WAS UNDER NO ILLUSIONS AS TO WHAT ALL THIS MEANT IN TERMS OF SOVIET INTENTIONS AND STRATEGY IN AFRICA.

6. COMMENT: FOR TIME BEING THRUST OF CURRENT GOZ DIPLOMACY SEEMS TO BE TOWARD STRENGTHENING ITS OWN POLITICAL CASE ON SHABA
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INVASION RATHER THAN SEEKING IMMEDIATE OAU INTERVENTION. THIS STRIKES US AS REASONABLE COURSE OF ACTION IN LIGHT OF NEED TO ACQUAINT OTHER AFRICANS WITH WHAT IS ACTUALLY GOING ON AND TO BUILD UP SUPPORT ON ISSUE OF TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY--A NEED WHICH SEEMS AMPLY DEMONSTRATED BY REPORTS WE HAVE SEEN FROM OUR OTHER EMBASSIES RE HOST GOVERNMENT ATTITUDES. AT SAME TIME, HOWEVER, GOZ'S EFFORTS WITH KAUNDA AND WITH NIGERIANS, AS WELL AS WITH OAU MINISTERIAL COUNCIL CHAIRMAN, WOULD SEEM TO BE USEFUL IN TERMS OF GETTING DIALOGUE GOING WITH THIRD PARTIES WHO MAY HAVE SOME INFLUENCE WITH LUANDA. GOZ HAS NOT YET ASKED FOR OUR HELP IN THIS PROCESS AND, AS SEEN FROM HERE, THERE WOULD SEEM TO BE ADVANTAGE FOR TIME BEING IN HAVING AFRICANS THEMSELVES TAKE LEAD IN TRYING TO WORK UP POLITICAL MOMENTUM ON THIS ISSUE. I WOULD NEVERTHELESS HOPE THAT WE CAN REMAIN READY TO LEND DISCREET HELPING HAND IF AND WHEN NEED ARISES.
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Message Attributes

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